

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: S/S: FVORTIZ

APPROVED BY: S/ S- ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 084839

NODIS

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM TEHRAN DTD 08 APR 1976 QUOTE

S E C R E T TEHRAN 3557

NODIS

PLEASE PASS CAIRO AND JIDDA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, SA, EG, US, IR

SUBJ: TRAINING FOR EGYPTIAN PILOTS

REF: STATE 083920

1. WE CARRIED OUT INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REFTEL IN MEETING WITH GENERAL TOUFANIAN, APRIL 8. POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT MOVE HAD BEEN INITIATED IN BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS TO BLOCK SALE OF C-30S TO EGYPT, OUR MOST IMPORTANT SALE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO THAT COUNTRY IN DECADES. WE WERE AFRAID THAT IRANIAN AGREEMENT TO TRAIN EGYPTIAN PILOTS COULD NEGATIVELY AFFECT CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED SALE. FURTHER, EGYPTIAN TRAINING ON IRANIAN F-4S AND F-5S COULD CREATE IMPRESSION THAT EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAD MISLED CONGRESS. C-130

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TRAINING MIGHT BE POSSIBLE AT A LATER DATE. BUT FOR THE

MOMENT WE PREFERRED THAT IT BE HANDLED BY USAF.

2. WE SAID THAT SALE OF C-130S AND TRAINING PROGRAM FOR EGYPTIANS WAS IN INTEREST OF EGYPT, US AND IRAN, BUT PRIMARILY WAS IMPORTANT TO GEYPT. ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SHOULD CONGRESS REACT NEGATIVELY TO NEWS OF PROPOSED EGYPTIAN TRAINING IN IRAN, THERE COULD BE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON IRANIAN POSITION IN CONGRESSIONAL EYES. WE WOULD NOT WISH TO SEE YOUR MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH IRAN COMPLICATED BY POSSIBLE RESTRICTIONS THAT HAD THEIR ORIGIN IN PROPOSED TRAINING.

3. WE TOLD TOUFANIAN THAT WE WERE NOT REPLYING EITHER POSITIVELY OR VEGATIVELY TO HIS REQUEST, BUT ASKING HIM TO WAIT UNTIL SITUATION WAS CLARIFIED. WE HOPED TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH HIM AGAIN AT A LATER DATE.

4. TOUFANIAN LISTENED ATTENTIVELY AND, IT SEEMED TO US, SYMPATHETICALLY. HE MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT.
HELMS UNQTE
SISCO

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Message Attributes

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